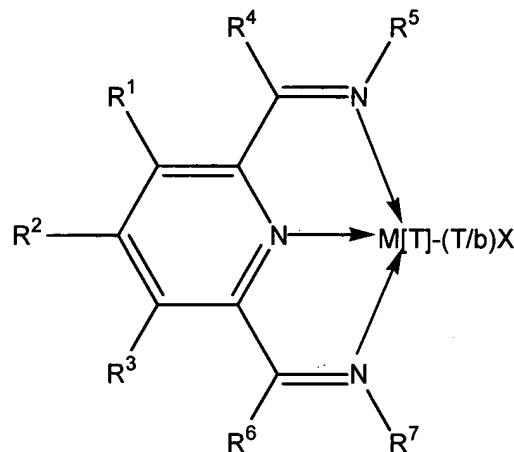


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Process A process for the preparation of a supported catalyst, comprising the steps of

- contacting a support material containing 1-10% water with a trialkylaluminium trialkylaluminum compound; and
- contacting the resulting material with a transition metal complex of the formula (I)



Formula (I)

wherein M is Fe[II], Fe[III], Co[I], Co[II], Co[III], Mn[I], Mn[II], Mn[III], Mn[IV], Ru[II], Ru[III] or Ru[IV]; X represents an atom or group covalently or ionically bonded to the transition metal M; T is the oxidation state of the transition metal M and b is the valency of the atom or group X; R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl, substituted heterohydrocarbyl [[or]] and SiR'<sub>3</sub> where each R' is independently selected from the

group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl and substituted heterohydrocarbyl.

2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is silica, alumina, aluminosilicate or crosslinked polystyrene/polyvinylalcohol.

3. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is first dehydrated before being contacted with ~~a known amount of~~ water.

4. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is contacted with a solution of trialkylaluminium the trialkylaluminium compound in an amount sufficient to provide a mole ratio of trialkylaluminium trialkylaluminium to the water in the support material of from 3:1 to 1:2[, preferably from 1.2:1 to 0.9:1].

5. (Currently amended) Process according to claim [[4]]1, wherein the hydrated support material is contacted with the trialkylaluminium trialkylaluminium compound in the presence of a solvent ~~by adding the trialkylaluminium to the hydrated support~~.

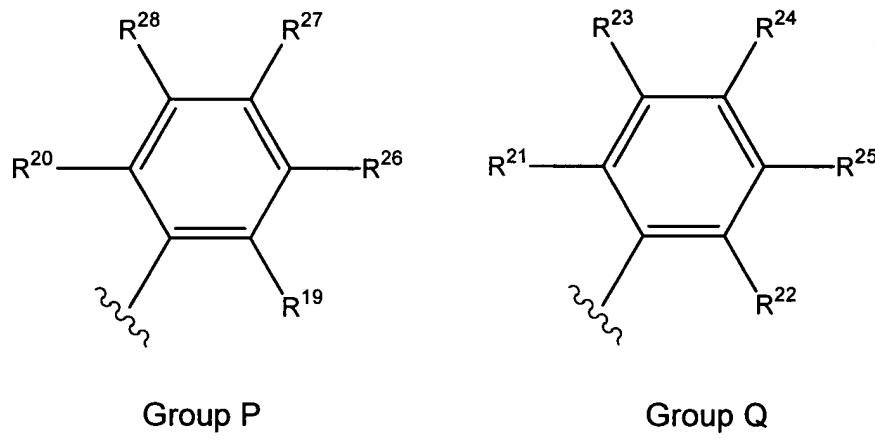
6. (Currently amended) Process according to claim [[4]]5, wherein the hydrated support is contacted with the trialkylaluminium in the presence of a solvent which ~~comprises~~ is an inert hydrocarbon[, preferably] selected from the group consisting of isobutene, butane, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, toluene [[or]] and xylene.

7. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein the trialkylaluminium trialkylaluminum compound is trimethylaluminium trimethylaluminum

(TMA), triethylaluminium triethylaluminum (TEA), tri-isobutylaluminium tri-isobutylaluminum (TIBA) or tri-n-octylaluminium tri-n-octylaluminum.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein the trialkylaluminium trialkylaluminum solution compound and support material mixture from step a) is contacted with the transition metal complex of formula (I) in an amount sufficient to provide an aluminium aluminum to transition metal ratio of from 1000:1 to 1:1, preferably from 300:1 to 10:1, most preferably from 150:1 to 30:1.

9. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1 wherein in the transition metal complex of formula (I), R<sup>5</sup> is represented by the group "P" and R<sup>7</sup> is represented by the group "Q" as follows:



wherein R<sup>19</sup> to R<sup>28</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl [[or]] and substituted heterohydrocarbyl; when any two or more of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>19</sup> to R<sup>28</sup> are hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl or substituted heterohydrocarbyl, said two or more can be linked to form one or more cyclic substituents.

10. (Original) Process according to claim 1 wherein the transition metal complex of formula (I) comprises one or more of

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)MnCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)CoCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2-tert.-butylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,3-dimethylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2-methylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,4-dimethylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-dimethylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,4,6 trimethyl anil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-dimethyl 4-t-butyl anil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-dimethylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-diethylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)FeCl<sub>2</sub>

2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(1-naphthil)FeCl<sub>2</sub> or

2,6-bis(1,1-diphenylhydrazone)pyridine.FeCl<sub>2</sub>.

11. (New) Process according to claim 4 wherein the mole ratio of trialkylaluminum to water is from 1.2:1 to 0.9:1.